

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

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TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 164223

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, TU

SUBJECT: HOUSE COMMITTEE ACTION ON LEGISLATION TO LIFT
TURKISH ARMS EMBARGO.

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN INVITED TURKISH AMBASSADOR
ESENBEL TO DEPARTMENT JULY 11 TO COMMENT ON BILL TO RELIEVE
TURKISH EMBARGO WHICH WAS VOTED OUT OF HOUSE INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS COMMITTEE EARLIER IN THE DAY (TEXT OF BILL BEING
SENT SEPTEL). HARTMAN EMPHASIZED THAT WHILE COMMITTEE
BILL--WHICH INCLUDES AN AMENDMENT INTRODUCED BY CONGRESS-
MAN FRASER PROHIBITING NEW FMS CONTRACTS FOR TURKS UNTIL
PASSAGE OF FY 76 FMS LEGISLATION -- MAY NOT BE ALL WE
WOULD WISH, IT WOULD CONSTITUTE, NONETHELESS, A SUB-
STANTIAL LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO. HE NOTED THAT THE BILL
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WOULD PERMIT:

(A) SHIPMENT OF ITEMS IN FMS AND COMMERCIAL SALES PIPE-LINE TOTALING ABOUT \$185 MILLION;

(B) NEW COMMERCIAL PURCHASES OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT;

(C) USG ISSUANCE OF LICENSES FOR TRANSPORT OF EQUIPMENT TO TURKEY; AND

(D) US APPROVAL OF THIRD COUNTRY TRANSFERS WHERE FMS NOT INVOLVED.

THE BILL WOULD, HOWEVER, PRECLUDE ANY FMS CASH SALES, CREDIT SALES, OR GUARANTEES UNTIL PASSAGE OF FY 76 FMS LEGISLATION.

2. ESENBEL SAID THAT HE HOPED ADMINISTRATION WOULD WORK TO DEFEAT FRASER AMENDMENT. OTHERWISE, HE FELT THAT OPPONENTS OF BILL WOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO WEAKEN IT EVEN FURTHER DURING FULL HOUSE DEBATE NEXT WEEK (NOW TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR JULY 17). HE ALSO NOTED THAT PREVIOUS CREDIT ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN USEFUL TO TURKEY AND SAID HE CONSIDERED ITS RESTORATION IMPORTANT. HE WAS FURTHER CONCERNED THAT SOME NECESSARY SPARE PARTS FOR TURKISH EQUIPMENT MIGHT BE AVAILABLE ONLY FROM USG SOURCES, FOR WHICH TRANSACTIONS WOULD BE PROHIBITED BY FRASER AMENDMENT.

3. HARTMAN REPLIED THAT WITH HOUSE ACTION AND PROBABLE SENATE-HOUSE CONFERENCE STILL AHEAD, LEGISLATIVE PROCESS IS BY NO MEANS COMPLETE. ADMINISTRATION WILL CONTINUE TO WORK FOR VERY BEST BILL IT CAN GET. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE WILL TRY TO ELIMINATE FRASER AMENDMENT AT SOME STAGE IF THAT SEEMS POSSIBLE. IN REPLY TO ESENBEL QUESTION, HARTMAN SAID THAT WHILE BILL DOES NOT RESTORE GRANT ASSISTANCE, IT DOES NOT AFFECT PRESIDENT'S WAIVER AUTHORITY. IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT IF TURKEY CANNOT PROCURE SOME PARTICULARLY VITAL SPARE PARTS FROM COMMERCIAL SOURCES, WAIVER AUTHORITY MIGHT BE USED SOMETIME IN FUTURE.

4. HARTMAN REPEATED REQUEST FOR TURKISH MODERATION IN DAYS
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AHEAD THAT HAD BEEN GIVEN ESENBEL EARLIER IN THE WEEK BY OTHER DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS. HE SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT TURKS DO NOTHING TO ROCK THE BOAT EITHER IN CYPRUS OR VIS-A-VIS US FACILITIES WHILE CONGRESSIONAL ACTION IS IN TRAIN. INGERSOLL

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